

Remarks/Arguments

This amendment and response is pursuant to the filing of a Request for Continued Examination and the withdrawal from appeal of the above-identified application. Because prosecution of this application has been reopened, this amendment and response is a submission to the outstanding Office Action in compliance with MPEP § 1215.01.

Claims 70, 73-76, 82-87, 90-93, 99-104, 107-109, and 112-114 are currently pending in the application. Claims 70, 82, 84-87, 99, 101-104, 112, and 114-115 are presently amended. Claims 77-81, 94-98, and 110-111 were previously cancelled pursuant to an amendment after final in preparation for appeal.

In the Office Action of November 17, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 70, 73-81, 87, 90-98, 104, 107-111 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Webber (6,167,378) in view of Whipple (6,289,385), and also rejected claims 82-84, 86, 99-101, 103, 112-115 under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Webber in view of Whipple in view of Abgrall (6,373,298). Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, each alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of the amended claims.

Claims 70, 87, and 104 are amended to clearly indicate that the installation management relates to installation of a service in a network-based supply chain framework. Further, the installation management framework manager claimed by the present invention facilitates the selection and installation of the service for the matched manufacturer and service provider.

Additional features of the presently claimed invention are now also included in amended claims 70, 87, and 104, and dependent claims 82, 99, and 112. These limitations, which are not found in the prior art, further describe the process and factors relevant to matching the service provider offerings to the manufacturer and building a profile of the business entity users, respectively.

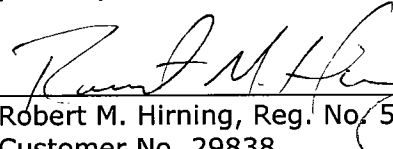
Because the combination of Webber, Whipple, and Abgrall fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the amended claims, Applicant respectfully asserts that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and that these claims are allowable.

Further, because claims 73-76, 82-86, 90-93, 99-103, 107-109, and 112-115 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 70, 87, and 104, these dependent claims are also allowable as depending from allowable claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of all claims under § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (612) 607-7345. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees including fees for any extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Docket 60021-334801).

Respectfully submitted,

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